

# METRORAIL AND METROMOVER RIDE INTO THE FUTURE



Concept rendering of new rail cars

Within the next five years, thanks to the People's Transportation Plan, state-of-the-art electronic equipment and high-tech materials will be integrated into Metrorail and Metromover cars, bringing both systems up to 21st Century technology.

Metrorail cars have already been in service for 20 of their 30-year life span. Several of the Metromover cars have reached their 20-year life span. Because of extensive daily use, public transportation vehicles require a complete overhaul at their midlife, in addition to regular scheduled maintenance.

## REHAB PROJECT UNDERWAY

Last year, Miami-Dade Transit began preparing for the complete rehabilitation of Metrorail's fleet, which consists of 136 cars. That means everything within the rail cars will be replaced, except for the outer shells. The cost of rehabilitating the rail cars is approximately \$190 million.

"This project is part of our commitment to provide our customers with more efficient rail service," said MDT Director Roosevelt Bradley.

A new diagnostic system will be added to the rehabilitated rail cars to make it easier for train operators and maintenance crews to locate and correct mechanical problems. This important feature will save the County time and money in maintenance costs.

The rehabilitation project is geared toward having less failures, less maintenance, and better diagnostics. Besides this, rail cars will get a new, state-of-the-art propulsion system. Metrorail will switch from direct electrical current to alternating current. By using an alternating-current system, Metrorail will use less energy and reduce the amount of maintenance required on the vehicles. Moreover, the cars will get new brakes, and the air-conditioning system will be rebuilt.

## FUTURISTIC LOOK FOR METRORAIL CARS

Although the rail vehicles' outer shell will remain the same, their look and feel will be completely different. All vehicles will have new floors, new seat covers, and a more modern exterior look. Fifty-six of the cars will have new end noses, making these vehicles more aerodynamic. By the time they are completed, Metrorail's rehabilitated cars will resemble European high-speed trains.

Further, to increase security on Metrorail trains, MDT is looking to install a closed-circuit television system in all cars. This would allow train operators and Metrorail Central Control to closely monitor each car.

## NEW METROMOVER CARS

But Metrorail is not the only system getting a complete overhaul. Within the next two years, MDT will acquire 12 new Metromover vehicles. The vehicles will sport a futuristic look that includes a new design with sloped front ends.

In addition, these mover cars will have improved electronic-information displays that not only show service schedules and stations, but also display information about landmarks and tourist attractions close to Metromover stations. The same display units will relay emergency service-change information.

Like Metrorail cars, the new mover cars will be equipped with a video-surveillance system that will allow the monitoring of activities in the vehicles. Central Control security personnel will immediately report any problem to security officers in the field, as well as law-enforcement agencies.

Miami-Dade Transit opted to purchase 12 new mover cars instead of rehabilitating the existing ones, because it costs almost as much to buy new ones as it does to rehabilitate older vehicles.

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